

Mr. SESSIONS. I would ask an indulgence. It had nothing to do with discrimination. It had to do with a new policy.

And it is true that I did rule and put a self-executing rule in that did answer the question about the desire of the committee to handle this issue, and I did it accordingly. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, it appears that no one is going to be able to tell me what the schedule is for the week to come. I will tell you that that is unfortunate.

I hope there is a schedule for the week to come because there is a lot to be done. We haven't finalized Zika. We passed a bill here which we think was inadequate.

We haven't dealt with Flint.

We need to pass Puerto Rico restructuring. I think they have made some progress on that. I congratulate the Speaker and the leader for facilitating that progress.

We don't have a voting rights bill scheduled. We need to do that.

There are a number of other serious pieces of legislation this House needs to consider. We are going to go out next week, and we will have no colloquy next week, Mr. Speaker. There will be no opportunity to discuss the schedule for, obviously, the break, and we will have no schedule for June or the weeks thereafter to do some of the serious business that confronts us and to help some of the people in this country who need help.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that nobody on the other side is going to have any response.

I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2814. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Sevierville, Tennessee, the Dannie A. Carr Veterans Outpatient Clinic.

□ 1230

COMMENDING COMMUNITIES BATTLING THE OPIOID AND HEROIN EPIDEMIC

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend several communities in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District that are taking a stand in the battle against our Nation's opioid abuse and heroin epidemic.

Last evening I chaired a hearing here on Capitol Hill on this epidemic, and just this morning I learned of two townhall meetings, one held last night in Titusville in Crawford County and

the other held Tuesday evening in Ridgway in Elk County.

These communities, like countless others across Pennsylvania and our Nation, have witnessed firsthand the tragic impact of this epidemic. Elk County is ranked ninth in Pennsylvania in overdose deaths per population of 100,000 people, while Crawford County has seen its overdose deaths double in the past 4 years.

I am proud to see these communities come together to see what can be done to help turn the tide against the scourge of prescription drug abuse and heroin use.

I am also proud of the package passed last week—18 bills—here in the House which will make grant funding available to State and local governments for the creation of opioid reduction programs, create a task force to review prescribing practices, and care for babies who are born opioid dependent.

In the future, I look forward to further partnerships with Federal, State, and local officials, along with these communities, in winning this battle.

VA MEDICAL MARIJUANA

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, today the House did do one good thing, and that was to take a major step forward with the historic passage of an amendment that removes the barriers for our Veterans Administration health professionals to discuss alternative treatments—specifically, medical marijuana—with their patients in States like Nevada, where it is legal.

This comes on the heels of action last week addressing the opioid epidemic that is plaguing our Nation, and it is especially heartbreaking in our veteran community where these drugs are being overprescribed for pain treatment and PTSD.

The amendment passed today, which I was pleased to offer and to support, will provide additional tools for our medical professionals in the treatment of our veterans so they won't have to resort to opioids.

I am proud that this amendment did have bipartisan support; but moving forward, we must continue to reform our outdated policies and laws and bring Congress into step with the State legislatures in over half of the States in the country that have moved forward on this issue.

RECOGNIZING GREG PARKER

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Greg Parker, founder and president of Parker's Market and gas stations in coastal Georgia and South Carolina.

Mr. Parker found his way to an immensely successful business through

hard work and dedication. Mr. Parker's father ran a gas station in Midway, Georgia, allowing Mr. Parker to learn the business through pumping gas and cleaning customers' windshields.

After graduation from the University of Georgia, Mr. Parker began to work relentlessly in his father's gas station. He managed a convenience store, cooked food for customers, and also pumped gas and cleaned windshields.

Now Parker's has 45 stores up and down the coast of Georgia and South Carolina, with a total of 600 employees. Furthermore, Parker's Market plans to build 17 new stores in the next 13 months. The Savannah Morning News even named him the 2013 Entrepreneur of the Year.

Mr. Parker's service to the First Congressional District of Georgia does not end with his successful business, as he also generously donates each year to local schools and hospitals.

PROVISIONS HARMFUL TO IMMIGRANTS AND AMERICA

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, last night we voted on the National Defense Authorization Act, and today we voted on a military construction and Veterans Affairs bill. Both contain provisions that are harmful to immigrants and America.

I proposed two amendments to the NDAA, and I am disappointed that they were not given a chance to be voted on.

The NDAA bill that passed prohibits the use of unused military grounds to house unaccompanied immigrant children while their asylum case is being processed. My amendment would have allowed the Office of Refugee Resettlement to increase its shelter capacity by temporarily housing unaccompanied children in unused DOD facilities.

I also offered an amendment that would guarantee DACA recipients with in-demand skills to enlist in our military through the MAVNI program for as long as the program exists. To deny brave and dedicated men and women the opportunity to defend this great Nation is just un-American.

SUPPORTING OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my colleagues for supporting and passing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

The NDAA reaffirms our commitment to supporting our men and women in uniform by enhancing pay and benefits for our servicemembers and their families, providing not only for the country as a whole, but also for back home in the 12th Congressional District of Georgia.